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**RAPPER "LIL' KIM" AND FRIEND CHARGED WITH PERJURY AND
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE IN FEDERAL INVESTIGATION OF 2001
SHOOTING OUTSIDE MANHATTAN RADIO STATION; TWO OTHERS
CHARGED WITH SHOOTING: "LIL' KIM'S" MANAGERS CHARGED
WITH PASSPORT FRAUD**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, RAYMOND E. KELLY, the New York City Police Commissioner, and PASQUALE D'AMURO, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the FBI, announced the unsealing today in Manhattan federal court of two Indictments, one charging KIMBERLY JONES, the rapper popularly known as "Lil' Kim" and four friends and associates.

SHOOTING OUTSIDE THE HOT 97 RADIO STATION

The first Indictment charges two defendants who fired guns, including a fully automatic machine gun, in front of the offices of New York radio station Hot 97, on February 25, 2001, after JONES appeared on Hot 97. One person was shot and injured during the incident. The Indictment further charges JONES and MONIQUE DOPWELL with conspiracy to commit perjury, make false

statements, and obstruct justice, and related offenses, because they lied to the Grand Jury about the shooters charged in the Indictment.

The 17-count Indictment charges DAMION BUTLER with possession of a firearm, having been previously convicted of two felonies involving firearms. SUIF JACKSON is also charged with possession of a firearm, having been previously convicted of three felonies: robbery, attempted robbery and possession of a firearm, and is further charged with illegal possession of a machinegun and transportation of that weapon across state lines. According to the Indictment, these charges relate to the use and firing of weapons by BUTLER and JACKSON during the shooting in front of the Hot 97 radio station offices in Manhattan on February 25, 2001.

The Indictment charges both JONES and her friend, DOPWELL, with conspiracy to commit perjury, make false statements, and obstruct justice, perjury before the grand jury, the making of false statements, and obstruction of justice. According to the Indictment, JONES and DOPWELL both testified before a federal grand jury in connection with the investigation of the 2001 shooting in front of the Hot 97 radio station offices. While under oath, each allegedly made a series of false and perjurious statements regarding facts material to the grand jury's investigation of the shooting.

According to the Indictment, JONES was a member of the

"Jr. M.A.F.I.A." rap group, which was formed by Christopher Wallace, who was known professionally as, among other things, "the Notorious B.I.G." and "Biggie Smalls." The Indictment states that Wallace provided opportunities in the music business to his friends, including JONES, BUTLER, and JACKSON, who met in the Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn. According to the Indictment, members and associates of Jr. M.A.F.I.A., including JONES, BUTLER, and JACKSON, referred to each other as "family" and developed loyalty to each other. After Wallace's murder in 1997, BUTLER became a co-manager for JONES, and developed a close relationship with her.

The Indictment also alleges that JACKSON was friends with Wallace, BUTLER, and JONES. During various periods, in or about 2000 and 2001, the Indictment states that Butler resided at JONES' home and Jackson stayed overnight.

The Indictment alleges that from at least 1997, up to and including at least 2001, BUTLER accompanied JONES to public appearances, including radio shows.

On the afternoon of February 25, 2001, JONES and members of Jr. M.A.F.I.A. appeared as on-air guests on the Hot 97 radio station, whose offices are located at 395 Hudson Street, Manhattan. According to the Indictment, JONES and DOPWELL - JONES' close friend - BUTLER, and other members of Jr.

M.A.F.I.A. entered the Hot 97 radio station offices together.

After the radio show concluded, JONES, DOPWELL, BUTLER, and JACKSON were standing outside the radio station's offices, and, according to the Indictment, at approximately the same time, another rap/hip-hop performer, who was scheduled to appear on the Hot 97 radio channel after JONES completed her appearance, approached the building at 395 Hudson Street. While JONES and DOPWELL were standing there, BUTLER and JACKSON, and at least one other person, fired guns outside 395 Hudson Street, it was charged. The Indictment charges that JACKSON fired a fully automatic Mac-11 machinegun, and that one person was shot in the back.

After the shooting, JONES and DOPWELL returned to JONES' home and BUTLER was also present there that night, according to the Indictment. The next day, February 26, 2001, the Indictment states that members of the New York City Police Department investigating the shooting went to JONES' home and JONES allegedly refused to tell the police the identities of any individuals who had accompanied her to the radio station the day before.

After the February 25, 2001 shooting, a Manhattan federal grand jury began investigating, among other things, the identities of the individuals present in front of 395 Hudson

Street on February 25, 2001 during the shooting that day, the identities of those present who possessed guns, the identities of those present who fired guns, and the motive for the shooting. Although JONES and DOPWELL were not considered suspects in the shooting, according to the Indictment it was material to the Grand Jury's investigation to determine, among other things, precisely what they witnessed, what information they learned after the shooting, what information they might possess concerning the motive for the shooting, and what relationship they had with the suspected shooters.

While under oath before the Grand Jury, JONES and DOPWELL are alleged to have repeatedly stated that BUTLER was not present at the Hot 97 radio station on February 25, 2001, when each knew this to be false. In addition, the Indictment charges that JONES repeatedly falsely denied that she knew SUIF JACKSON. The Indictment further alleges that JONES and DOPWELL concealed and covered up their knowledge of JACKSON and BUTLER's presence at the Hot 97 radio station on February 25, 2001. In so doing, the Indictment alleges that JONES and DOPWELL committed perjury, made false statements, and endeavored to impede the Grand Jury's investigation.

The case was assigned to United States District Judge GERARD E. LYNCH. The defendants in this case will be arraigned

later today before United States Magistrate Judge DEBRA C. FREEMAN AT 500 Pearl St. Judge LYNCH scheduled a pre-trial conference for Friday, April 16 at 1:30 p.m.

PASSPORT FRAUD

In a separate Indictment, BUTLER and HILLARY WESTON were charged with conspiracy to misuse a passport and the misuse of a United States passport. WESTON is JONES's manager, and was one of JONES's managers at the time of the 2001 shooting. BUTLER is also charged in this second indictment with making false statements to secure a passport in someone else's name, which he then used to travel internationally, aided by WESTON. This Indictment was assigned to United States District Judge WILLIAM H. PAULEY III, who will arraign the defendants in this case at 3 p.m. today.

If convicted of all charges that he faces, BUTLER, 33, could receive a maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment on the firearms charge, five years' imprisonment on the passport fraud conspiracy charge, and 10 years' imprisonment on each of the substantive passport fraud charges. JACKSON, 34, faces a maximum of 10 years' imprisonment on each of the four firearms charges he faces. Both BUTLER and JACKSON are currently incarcerated on other charges.

If convicted, JONES, 29, and DOPWELL, 32, each face a maximum sentence of 5 years' imprisonment on the conspiracy charge, 5 years' imprisonment on each of the perjury counts, 5 years' imprisonment on each of the false statements counts, and 10 years' imprisonment on the obstruction of justice charge. WESTON, 33, faces a maximum sentence of 5 years' imprisonment on the conspiracy to commit passport fraud charge and 10 years' imprisonment on the passport fraud charge.

All the defendants also each face fines of the greater of a \$250,000 fine or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the crime on each count

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the NYPD and the FBI. Mr. KELLEY also thanked the Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and the Social Security Administration, as well as the New York County District Attorney's Office, for their assistance in this investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys DANIEL M. GITNER and HELEN V. CANTWELL are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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